

DISCIPLINE BALKED FIRE HORROR AT SEA

Captain of Burned Venezia
Tells How His Crew Saved
Passengers.

FOUGHT BLAZE FOR HOURS

Engine Room Men Stuck to
Posts Until Flames Drove
Them to Boats.

Bringing 350 survivors of the Fabre Line, Venezia, burned at sea at latitude 45:33 north and longitude 48:04 west, the steamship Chicago of the French Line arrived yesterday from Bordeaux with details of the most serious fire aboard a transatlantic steamship since the Volturno tragedy in October, 1913.

Only the perfect discipline maintained by the passengers and crew saved the ship and the excellent work of Captain Paul Bonifacio and his officers made possible the rescue of the entire ship's company without the loss of a single life. Even three days belonging to some of the passengers were allowed places in the boats with their own effects.

A smooth sea and the fact that the Chicago, eight miles away, picked up the Venezia's SOS and was able to reach the latter only about three hours after the passengers had been sent away in the boats, facilitated Captain Bonifacio's task. In telling the story yesterday, however, he laid special emphasis on the way the members of the crew, especially the men of the engine room, fought the fire until their posts.

Captain's Story.

The Captain, in spite of the fact that all those entrusted to his care had come safely through an experience which had every potentiality of horror, told the story yesterday and he had lost his ship after nursing her safely through years of dangerous navigation in the submarine zones of the Mediterranean and the North Sea, and the reflection that he had discharged the trust imposed upon him by the care of hundreds of lives served to cheer him.

He gave the details of the unfortunate voyage, however, simply and without reference to the depression that was evident in his appearance.

"We were bound from Havana to St. Nazaire," he said, "with a cargo of 230 tons of rum and 15,000 bags of sugar. It was 3 o'clock in the morning of October 13 when fire was reported in hold No. 2, forward, just under the bridge. This was the compartment in which the rum was stowed, but we never were able to discover the cause of the fire."

"I immediately ordered SOS calls sent out and constantly repeated. The crew was called to quarters and began the fight against the fire. We were in the hold, both forward and aft of the No. 2 hold, in an effort to keep the fire where it was. It was about 3 A. M. when we got a reply to our SOS from the Chicago. She asked our position and we gave it to her. Capt. Le Toux then replied that he was eighty miles to the south of us and said he would make all speed toward us. At the same time he asked that we steam toward him."

"We turned about and raced for the Chicago. We went at all speed, with engineers and firemen sticking to their posts regardless of danger, and every man doing his best at the job given him. But the speed was not enough to save us. The flames mounted higher and higher out of the hatch and spread aft. We had to stop at 6:30 A. M."

"Half an hour earlier all the passengers had been called, for some of them had slept through the noise of fighting the fire. The lifeboats were swung out and the women and children placed in them first. Then the male passengers got in. The boats were lowered and by 7 o'clock all were free of the ship."

Explosion on Board.

"The first officer and such men as were not needed to man the boats remained on the ship with me. At 8 o'clock there was a heavy explosion and the first officer had to leave the bridge. The smoke was very thick."

"Finally we too had to leave. We slid down the hatch and into the lifeboats and rowed over to the passengers' boats. These had been fastened to one another. We rowed up and down the boats, doing what we could to cheer the passengers. None of them had been allowed to bring any baggage with them, but three insisted on bringing their dogs into the boats and we let them do so."

"At 10 o'clock the Chicago came in sight and in an hour and a half later all had been transferred to her, as well as sixty-nine boxes of mail."

"The Chicago remained in the vicinity of the burning steamship for two hours and then returned her voyage to New York. She carried 100 passengers, 174 of them being Czech-Slovak brides, who are coming to this country to make their homes. These contributed portions of their trousseaus to the depleted wardrobes of the women passengers from the Venezia."

Passengers Cared For.

The Chicago docked at the Fabre Line pier in Brooklyn, and representatives of the American Red Cross, who were on hand to meet the Czech-Slovak brides, also assisted the Venezia's passengers and crew. None has as yet been allowed to visit this country, but the members of the crew were paroled in the custody of A. F. Henderson, general agent of the French Line, while the Red Cross organization will be responsible for such of the passengers as wish to come ashore.

Meanwhile the latter are being lodged and fed aboard the Chicago. The first class travellers will probably be forwarded by Le Havre, which is expected to sail within a few days, and the steerage passengers will remain here until the Chicago sails.

Among the regular passengers on the Chicago, which sailed from Bordeaux, was Samuel Charney, a well known Jewish art critic and writer, who escaped with his wife and two children from Russia through the influence of Col. House of the American Peace Commission. With his family he fled from Petrograd to escape the Bolsheviks, and went to Vilna. Here, on April 29, he witnessed a massacre of seventy Jews by the Soviet forces, and that same evening the Red soldiers broke into his home, seized Charney and his wife, and under pretense that they had been helping the revolutionaries, ordered both shot within five days.

Reception for New Citizens.

The foreign born who have become American citizens during the month have been invited to a reception and concert to be held Monday evening at 95 Second avenue, the downtown headquarters of the League of Foreign Born Citizens. The speakers will be Richard P. Lydon, Justice of the Supreme Court; Sidney C. Crane, Justice of the Municipal Court; Nathaniel Phillips, president of the league; John T. Pratt, and Capt. Stanley H. Howe.

HYLAN PACKS JAM BUDGET-WALLSTEIN

Document a Scandal and
Means Tax Boost to Point
of Confiscation.

CRAIG IS COBENEFICIARY

\$28,000,000 for Education Es-
pecially Stirs Wrath of
Citizens Union.

The tentative budget which is being set up by the Hyman Administration for the Hyman Administration to shoot at will be a target at least \$4,000,000 larger than the \$316,000,000 announced last week. It was learned yesterday that \$2,000,000 already has been added to the budget in the executive sessions of the finance and budget committee and a like amount in addition will in all probability be tacked on before the document sees the light of day.

At the same time Leonard M. Wallstein, counsel for the City Government Committee of the Citizens' Union, issued a statement in which he charges that the budget is packed with salary increases for Hyman and Craig favorites, fleets of automobiles and handsome furniture for pet departments and fat sums for contracts of all sorts. He characterizes the inclusion of \$28,000,000 for new construction in the Department of Education as scandalous camouflage, as calculated to expend any such sum even if provided as it should be by tax notes rather than through the levy. The item has been put in, he says, in order to make an opening for a later cut which will divert attention from the fat bits which are to be left in.

"The situation," he declares, "is aggravated by the Mayor's crocodile tears over the huge increase of \$68,000,000. He is a member of the budget committee of the Board of Estimate, which prepared this scandalous estimate. At any moment while it was being framed a word from him would have prevented the jobbery which this document contains."

"The increases are said to have been 'recommended' by requests of department heads and Borough Presidents for further sums for the services under their control. Manhattan and Brooklyn requests for increases were disposed of at yesterday's session. Queens, Richmond and Richmond will be heard next week."

Hyman and Craig on Job.

The sessions have been held in the offices of Comptroller Craig. As was true of previous sessions of the committee, all of the members of the Board of Estimate, including Mayor Hyman and Comptroller Craig, have attended personally instead of delegating this preliminary work to subordinates, as has been the case in other years. The Mayor persists in his denunciation of the size of the tentative budget, notwithstanding his personal part in its preparation. Unless the tax levy becomes confiscatory the total of the budget will have to be pared more than \$60,000,000.

It is said in City Hall that the administration is still hoping to find a way out of the tangle through the Legislature, the transit situation and the reform of payments for school and other construction. It may be that the city's intentions with regard to the transit contracts will be revealed in the course of the conference before the Public Service Commissioner Nixon which begins to-morrow.

"A study of the tentative city budget for 1920 discloses very clearly the reason for the unprecedented secrecy with which the Hyman Administration shrouded its preparation. It is a great many years since the public of this city have been so brazenly flouted by no outrageous distribution of public money among political henchmen. Everybody has favored the merited increase of the salaries of the rank and file of city employees. It now appears, however, that under cover of provision for such increases, the Hyman administration proposes to create the opportunity for providing a whole crop of new patronage jobs for passing around big increases in the salaries of political retainers already installed in their berths, for furnishing a fleet of new automobiles and a car load of commodious arm chairs and swivel chairs to the favored officials, big and little, and for providing enormous increases in the amounts to be available for contract work. Every abuse of the city payroll and if the public funds are to be devoted to the public but a moment before they were invited to discuss it and which was concocted in secret conclave of the members of the Board of Estimate."

Craig Co-Beneficiary.

"The Comptroller is blaming the law for the budget increases, but the actual increase is upon the ground of statutory provisions and court decisions is wholly untenable. Moreover, the tentative budget shows that the Comptroller has joined the Mayor in getting new political jobs for his own office and in boosting the salaries of present exempt appointees. Altogether, it is difficult to believe that the Hyman administration has brought this city administration into public contempt than is afforded by this tentative budget."

Of the \$28,000,000 for the Department of Education he says:

"There is no purpose to which the people of this city would rather see their taxes devoted than to securing the best educational advantages for their children, both as to teaching and housing. The inclusion, however, of \$28,000,000 in a single year is so palpably unjustified as to warrant the suspicion that it is included in the tentative budget for no purpose other than to provide a huge figure which might be eliminated while the provisions for new patronage jobs, higher patronage salaries, new automobiles and fat contracts were retained."

"All experience demonstrates that it is absolutely impossible, if only on account of limitations of physical plant and of personnel, for the Department of Education to expend any such sum as \$28,000,000 in a single year for school sites and school buildings. Probably not more than \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 can be expended for that purpose in a single year. The Department of Education has at its disposal this year \$10,000,000 of the \$11,000,000 which the last administration appropriated, and only a very small portion of that sum has actually been used. Moreover, whatever expenditures the Department of Education can and will make during 1920 for this purpose will be made during the year 'pay as you go' act which the 'pay as you go' law can be financed from the proceeds of tax notes redeemable in the budget of 1921. This procedure would insure that no more money was raised than could be expended."

Finally, this administration pleaded at Albany in 1919 that the 'pay as you go' act should be suspended for the duration of the war and for one year after its termination, as evidenced by a proclamation of the President. This plea was founded upon the assertion by

Comptroller Craig that the city must be permitted to issue its long term bonds (which the 'pay as you go' act prohibited) in order to raise the money necessary for the construction of additional school buildings, which were made essential by reason of this administration's abandonment of the policy of using existing school facilities more intensively.

"Upon that plea the Legislature passed and the Governor approved the Comptroller's bill, which is now a law of this State and which is fully operative, to permit the issue of corporate stock for whatever sums the Department of Education can spend next year for new school sites and new buildings. The only reason advanced for the administration's failure to employ this method of finance is the Comptroller's resentment at certain court decisions, which have thus far prevented the depredations of the city administration upon our public school system. The Comptroller's sulking, however, is no justification for the issue of bonds of over \$28,000,000 to the tax levy of next year."

"Unquestionably this appropriation will be very materially reduced in the budget of 1920, which is now being prepared. It will be interesting, however, to see what the administration will do with reference to the patronage and 'pork' provided for pet departments and fat sums for contracts of all sorts. The interesting aspects will be discussed in a second installment of our analysis of the tentative budget, which will be published Monday morning."

The budget committee worked until a late hour last night, and when they finished Comptroller Craig announced that there was still so much clerical work to do on the tentative budget that no analysis of it could be made public before to-morrow or Tuesday. The public hearings probably will begin Wednesday or Thursday.

REPUBLICAN WOMEN

TO HOLD LECTURES

C. H. Betts Will Speak at the
First To-morrow.

Mrs. Walter Damrosch heads the committee of prominent New York women who are arranging a course of six political lectures of special interest to the woman voter.

The first of these lectures will be given to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock at the National Republican Club, 54 West 57th street, under the direction of the Republican Women's State Executive Committee. Mrs. Arthur L. Livermore, State chairman, will preside and Charles H. Betts of Lyons will speak on "Americanism, the Cure for Belatedness."

Assisting Mrs. Damrosch in the arrangements are Mrs. Winthrop D. Aldrich, Mrs. James P. Curtis, Mrs. Charles H. Betts, Mrs. Charles E. Hughes, Mrs. Charles H. Sabin, Mrs. James R. Sheffield, Mrs. Reeve Schley, Mrs. Henry S. Sigmund, Miss Mary J. Schieffelin, Mrs. Henry W. Taft, Mrs. Mary Wadley and Mrs. Lucius Wilmerding.

Mr. Betts is an expert on the Constitution. He was a member of the New York State Constitutional Convention in 1915, former secretary of the New York State Food Commission and is a candidate for member of the Assembly from Wayne county.

The meeting on October 27, State Senator Frederick M. Davenport of Oneida and Col. M. P. Grayson of the Red Cross will be speakers, and on November 3, Herbert Hoover, Republican national committeeman, and Ogden Mills, former State Senator, will be speakers.

HUGHES WILL AID

M'COOK CAMPAIGN

George H. Bell Replies to
Murphy's Argument.

Announcing the acceptance by Charles Evans Hughes of an invitation to serve the campaign committee of Philip J. M'Cook, Republican candidate for the Supreme Court, George H. Bell, his campaign manager, said last night:

"Mr. Hughes would not serve on the committee unless he felt that he was supporting the right candidate for the Supreme Court. From his long experience Mr. Hughes knows the qualifications of the candidates, and he knows that kind and his endorsement of Major M'Cook is going to be of great assistance to us."

Upon receiving information that Tammany Hall had instructed its speakers to defend its failure to renominate Justice Joseph E. Newburger on the ground that since Charles P. Murphy had been leader they had never renominated judges who had served so long as twenty-eight years on the bench and in 1914 have to retire in a few years, William P. Schneider said:

"In putting out this statement Tammany Hall has overlooked the fact that they have nominated for reelection a man who has been twenty-eight years on the bench and will have to retire before his term is up. That man is Justice William F. Moore, of the First District, who was appointed by the Governor in 1890 and was elected in November of that year. He has been continuously on the bench since that time."

"Another case is that of Justice Durso, who after serving twenty-eight years on the bench was renominated and reelected in 1914 for a fourteen year term. He could then only serve six years because he was 64 years old at the time of his election and will be obliged to retire because of the age limit next year."

"While finally disposed of Mr. Murphy's weak attempt to justify his outrageous assault upon the judiciary."

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HOUSTON SEES NEED FOR BUDGET REFORM

Secretary in Statement Gives
His Views on Federal Fi-
nancial System.

PUTS CHECK ON WASTE

Proposes Unified Estimates Be
Acted Upon by Commit-
tee of Congress.

The National Budget Committee made public yesterday a statement from D. F. Houston, Secretary of Agriculture, in which the Secretary presents his own remedy for the governmental financial system and voices the opinion of the American farmer upon the need for reform.

After pointing out defects which now allow large waste of funds, and calling attention to the prospect of large increases in peace time expenditures, Secretary Houston says:

"Our finances must be handled on a business basis. They cannot be under present arrangements. The American farmer should demand that there be a Federal budget system."

"There is no reason why the Federal Government for each of its services, the executive, judicial and legislative, should not have presented to it, long in advance of the assembling of Congress, an actual statement of its real needs; that is, of the estimates for Federal expenditures and of the plans for meeting them."

"It would not solve the problem simply to present unified estimates. The estimates should go to a great committee of Congress, which would study them as a whole, coordinate them and make its report to the whole body."

"There should be a rule that no addition can be made to any item in the budget as a whole, coordinate them and make its report to the whole body."

"The budget committee worked until a late hour last night, and when they finished Comptroller Craig announced that there was still so much clerical work to do on the tentative budget that no analysis of it could be made public before to-morrow or Tuesday. The public hearings probably will begin Wednesday or Thursday."

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Reg. Price \$84.00

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68.72

Cash or Credit

Genuine Oak Buffet

Reg. Price \$35.00

Cash or Credit

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SMITH PRAISES FOLEY.

Governor Aids His Campaign for
Surrogate.

Over the Finances by Having Some

responsibility to Congress and not to the Executive, who should examine all accounts and report to Congress his findings and recommendations."

SMITH PRAISES FOLEY.

Governor Aids His Campaign for Surrogate.

Gov. Alfred E. Smith paid a high tribute last night to James A. Foley, the Democratic candidate for Surrogate.

"When the Democrats won the Legislature of 1911," said the Governor, in a statement made public at the Foley headquarters in the Commodore, "Mr. Foley suddenly to the front and made a name for himself and a record of achievement to which he has been adding steadily ever since. In the session this year he did what had never been accomplished before, he made the minority a majority in the Senate and had passed by that body every one of the recommendations contained in my message to the Legislature."

The citizens' committee for the election of Edward P. Boyle, Tammany candidate for President of the Borough of Manhattan, has opened headquarters at the Hotel Commodore. Michael W. Haynes is chairman and John W. Naughton treasurer.